

1. RPMs - Leos, Tzhone
2. Site repository
3. SDMS - File
4. TAG File

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site**

Report Number: 3

Date: February 15, 2012

Report Period: October 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011

Site: San Jacinto River Waste Pits (SJRWP), Harris County, Texas

Grant Recipient: Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF)

Recipient Group Representative: Scott Jones, Environmental Policy and Outreach Specialist

Technical Advisor: Jennifer Ronk and Kali Frost, Houston Advanced Research Center, The Woodlands, Texas

Progress Achieved:

- GBF continued conversations with Texans Together to find a path forward for collaboration on outreach in spite of Texans Together methods of outreach to the public, which GBF feels is not in keeping with the Superfund RI/FS and TAG process. Namely, Texans Together has publically questioned the adequateness and accuracy of the RI/FS data and EPA findings before the results have even been produced by EPA for public consumption. Texans Together retained Dr. Stephen King, a local toxicologist, to analyze nine independent sediment and twelve fish tissue samples and shared a narrative summary at their October 19th public meeting. They had not made the results available to the EPA, HARC, or GBF before doing so. At that meeting, Dr. King stated that the EPA is not testing for all contaminants of concern and also indicated that his fish tissue results are of major concern, even though they were similar to what TSDHS and others have collected to date. Dr. King also stated that required data was not available on the EPA SJRWP's webpages. GBF is not in agreement with Texans Together on these assertions. GBF is of the opinion that this action by Texans Together hurts public education and outreach due to the fact that they are making conclusive statements about environmental and human health conditions, and asserting a lack of information is being provided, without proper evidence and in the absence of proper peer review of the data. Dr. King's full report has still not been made available to HARC or GBF at the time of this writing. To try to help remedy this situation, GBF facilitated HARC technical advisor communication with Texans Together and Dr. King. HARC pointed out the information on the websites that are available to Dr. King. GBF continued to work with HARC on outreach plans, pending results of our discussions with Texans Together, in the event that we cannot collaborate with the latter as was described in our grant request.

- With input from HARC, Texans Together, San Jacinto River Coalition, and members of the SJRWP Community Awareness Committee, GBF launched the SJRWP webpage (http://galvbay.org/advocacy_sjrw.html). The webpage complements the EPA Region 6 and EPA Headquarters webpages. It includes a summary of TCRA and RI/FS activities to date, along with an overview schedule of activities to be completed through at least 2013. The webpage will direct the viewer to not only the U.S. EPA webpages for more in-depth information on the Superfund process, but also the related Houston-Galveston Area Council Dioxin/PCB TMDL webpage and GBF's own Seafood Consumption Advisory webpage. GBF will add more components to this page as information becomes available, e.g. summary of cleanup process to date, HARC findings on EPA and ASTDR documents, links to the reviewed documents, updated RI/FS schedules, public meeting dates and contacts.



- HARC and GBF participated in the SJRWP Community Awareness Committee (CAC) meeting on October 19, 2011. The CAC meetings are facilitated by Donn Walters of U.S. EPA and Snehal Patel of the Harris County Attorney's Office.

- HARC and GBF participated in the October 19, 2011 Texans Together/San Jacinto River Coalition meeting at Highlands, Texas. Both HARC and GBF made observations and provided clarifications to statements made by Dr. King and Texans Together concerning findings to date and data/documents that are available.

- GBF produced an article on the SJRWP for the Fall 2011 GBF Gazette (http://galvbay.org/docs/Gazette_Q3_2011.pdf), that provides information to 2500 Foundation members.

- HARC and GBF participated in the SJRWP Community Awareness Committee (CAC) meeting on November 16, 2011.

- GBF continued to work with HARC on outreach plans, pending results of our discussions with Texans Together, in the event that we cannot collaborate with the latter as was described in our grant request. In addition to GBF's SJRWP webpage, outreach will include print, TV, and radio media, electronic newsletter, and a 1-page summary of the process and public involvement opportunities. Finally, GBF and HARC will plan for a public meeting before or after the next public EPA CEI meeting. There are positives and negatives to each option.

Materials Produced this Quarter:

- GBF launched the SJRWP webpage at http://galvbay.org/advocacy_sjrwp.html.

Difficulties Encountered:

- GBF is seeking final resolution to possible collaborative efforts with Texans Together. Given the tactics utilized by Texans Together, it is highly possible that GBF will no longer be able to directly collaborate on outreach pieces and dissemination.

Environmental Results Progress Achieved (Outputs/Outcomes):

- GBF launched the SJRWP webpage at http://galvbay.org/advocacy_sjrwp.html.

Activity Anticipated in Next Quarter:

- Final decision on possibility of outreach collaboration with Texans Together, as presented in grant application.
- Draft outreach pieces to complement webpage, e.g. electronic newsletter, 1-page summary of cleanup progress.
- GBF and HARC will continue to participate in CAC and SJRC meetings.
- GBF and HARC will plan a public meeting that will take place before or after the next U.S. EPA Public Meeting and designed to inform the public of TCRA and RI/FS activities to date and a review of the public data and information provided through the U.S. EPA.